THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.C. LANKA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Proposal for Mechanising the Maintenance of Railway Tracks

1225. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : SHRI GAYA SINGH :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether it is fact that Government have a proposal under consideration for mechanising the maintenance of railway tracks to phase out manual labour ;

(b) if so, what are the details of this proposal and the number of manual labour expected to be phased out thereby ; and

(c) whether it is fact that this job is proposed to be given to some private companies, if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no such proposal.

Extension of EMU Train upto Tundla

1226. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that daily commuters from Aligarh and Tundla have demanded the extension of EMU train upto Tundla so as to provide facilities to them ; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to extend. EMU train from New Delhi to Tundla; and if so, what are the details in this regard and if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA) : (a) Some representations for running EMU trains between New Delhi/ Delhi and Aligarh have been received.

(b) Introduction of EMU train between New Delhi and Aligarh is under consideration and action as found feasible and justified will be taken. However, at present there is no proposal to run EMU trains upto Tundla.

Conversion of M.G. Lines into B.G. Lines

1227. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have decided to convert the meter gauge lines into broad gauge lines ;

(b) how many route kilometers have since been converted into broad gauge so far ;

(c) whether the conversion work has slowed down in the recent past due to paucity of resources ; and

(d) by when the conversion work is targetted to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA) : (a) The Railways have taken up conversion of selected MG lines to BG.

(b) Project unigauge was taken up w.e.f. 1-4-92. Since then, 2518 kilometers have been converted.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) As per present projection 6000 kms are targetted for completion during 8th Plan. The onversion of remaining lines/sections will depend on availability of resources in the subsequent Plans.

Privatisation of Railway Stations

1228. SHRI GAYA SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Norhtern Railway has proposed to privatise the Moradabad, Bareilly and Dehradun railway stations ;

(b) whether Government have any such proposal for other regions ; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) With the objective of better b eautification/maintenance and increasing revenue from commercial advertisement, contract at five stations *i.e.*, 4 on Western Railway and one on South Eastern Railway has been given to parties who will have exclusive

rights for commercial advertisement at these stations as per the criteria laid down by the railway administration with the prior approval of the competent authority. The contractor will beutify the station by painting walls of platform, roof, main building, besides undertaking maintenance of the station. Other Zonal Railways have been instructed to identify the stations for this purpose.

Abolishing of sitting accommodation in Trains

1229. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 384 given in the Rajya Sabha on 28th July, 1993; and state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have altogether abolished the provision of reservation of sitting accommodation even for day journey on long distance trains and superfast trains ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government propose to review this decision in view of providing accommodation to more passengers: and

(c) if so, by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this matter and if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA) : (a) The facility of reservation of sitting accommodation during day-journey on long distance and superfast trains, in different classes, exists subject to availability of accommodation.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

लंबी दूरी की रेलगाड़ियों की धीमी गति

1230. **श्री सुशील कुमार संभाजीराव शिन्दे :** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि अनेक लम्बी दूरी की रेलगाड़ियां बहुत धीमी गति से चलायी जा रही हैं ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार भविष्य में तेज गति वाली रेलगाड़ियां चलाने के बारे में विचार कर रही हैं ?

(ग) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं ?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री के. सी. लेंका) : (क) जी, नहीं ।

(ख) से (घ) मेल एक्सप्रेस सुपरफास्ट और राजधानी/शताब्दी एक्सप्रेस गाड़ियों तेज रफ्तार वाली गाड़ियां शुरू करना एक सतत प्रक्रिया है, बशर्ते कि यातायात औचित्य, परिचालनिक व्यावहारिकता और संसाधन उपलब्ध हों ।

Conversion of Chair-cars into Sleepers

1231. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have planned to convert the chair-cars into sleepers in the Rajdhani Express running between Bombay and New Delhi ;

(b) If so, what are the details thereof ;

(c) by when this change is likely to be effected; and

(d) what are the other trains in which this facility would be made available in future and by when ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Initially an A.C. 3-Tier Sleeper has been provided on 2951/2952 Rajdhani Express in place of an A.C. Chair Car. Depending upon availability, A.C. Chair Cars in all the Rajdhani Expresses are proposed to be replaced by A. C. 3-tier coaches.

Conversion of MG/NG lines into B.G. lines

1232. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL : SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: